Irregularities in Implementation of JRY in Bihar

2887. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mukhiyas, districtwise, in Bihar recently divested of their powers following detection of large scale bungling and irregularities committed by them in implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that people of the State have not benefited from JRY;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of the development work under JRY is done on paper only and the money sirhoned off by the officials involved; and

(d) if so, the details of such bungling and irregularities for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of New Observatory in Ladakh

2888. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new observatory is likely to be set up in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the effective date of such establishment with background;

(c) whether establishment of this observatory at a height of 18, 000 feet would have some unique features; and

(d) if so details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIYOGINDER. K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, an autonomous institution of Department of Science and Technology, is planning to set up a new observatory in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed 2-m telescope can be operated remotely using a satellite based computer-to-computer communication link. It is expected to be made fully operational during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) and (d) The project consists of setting up of 2-m class infrared optical telescope at the summit of Dikpa Raja Ree near Hanle Monastery, Changthang Ladakh region. The height of the summit is 15,000 feet. The region has the unique advantage of being among the few high-altitude, cold and dry sites in the world. This is a highly desired environment for astronomy at the infra-red and sub-millimetre wavelengths. It will ensure high transparency of earth's atmosphere to the light received from celestial sources and will help in probing deeper into the Universe.

Technological Limitations of Power Electronics Industry

2889. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present technology in our country in the power electronics industry is limited to medium size devises;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage its upgradation and development;

(c) whether Government are aware that the UPS market in the country is picking up; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken to promote industry in this market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. Power semi-conductor devices of 7KW-1800 Amps are now being manufactured in the country right from the diffusion level for High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) applications. Industrial grade power semi-conductor devices (namely, diodes and thyristors) for power electronics equipment up to 6MW capacity are now manufactured regularly in the country.

(b) Power semi-conductor diodes and thyristors are already being manufactured even in the high-power range. However, manufacturing base for other power semi-conductor devices remains to be established. As a result of the promotional efforts of the Department of Electronics, manufacturing of HVDC grade

thyristors of 55 mm and 75 mm diameter has been established in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, UPS market is now being catered to by local manufacturers based on indigenous and imported designs. With the advent of new improved designs, local manufacturers are being encouraged for tying up with collaborators to meet the growing demand.

Stagnation in the Cadre of Section Officers

2890. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute stagnation in the cadre of Section Officers and officers of the 1981 batch are waiting for promotion;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ensure that the promotion orders are issued every month against whatever little vacancies are available, instead of waiting for several months;

(c) whether Government also propose to prepare a panel of 20 officers, followed by another one, before the first one expires; and

(c) whether the number of promotions is proposed to be increased, by allowing the officers holding G.C.S. posts to continue on promotion in CSS and give the resultant vacancy to next candidate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) A large number of the Section Officers included in the Select List 1981 are waiting for promotion as Under Secretary on ad-hoc basis. Appropriate action is taken to fill up the vacancies occurring in the Under Secretary's Grade keeping in view the functional requirements.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) The officers of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) holding cadre posts of Under Secretary are not to be considered for ad-hoc promotion to grade I of the CSS. All other officers including those on deputation are considered for ad-hoc promotion to Grade I of the CSS.

Foiling Pak attempts to subvert Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir

2891. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army had foiled yet another attempt by Pakistan to subvert the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, by arresting a number of Hizbul Mujahideen and hardcore militants and recovering huge quantities of arms on the election eve and repulsing a group of Pak-infiltrators; and

(b) if so, the details of similar other moves by militants and Pak forces in Jammu and Kashmir, during August—September, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS: (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) It is a fact that Pakistan and its protege militant groups made all possible efforts, including attempts to infiltrate armed terrorists into the State, to try and subvert and disrupt the process of the Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir. It is not feasible to pinpoint any particular operation of the Army to foil such designs. Coordinated arrangements and sustained efforts were made by the State Government and all the Security Forces and agencies to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. As a result, the Assembly elections in the State were conducted largely peacefully.

During the period August-September, 1996, 265 militants were killed, 164 were arrested and large quantity of weapons including inter-alia, 422 rifles, 184 pistols, 768 grenades and a sizeable quantity of explosives and ammunition were recovered from the militants.

Oil fields and gas fields handed over to private parties

2892. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of discovered oil/gas fields of ONGC and OIL contracted to foreign/Indian private parties, wholly or partly (joint venture), during the last five years;

(b) the money invested by ONGC and OIL on these fields before handling over the same;

(c) the production sharing formula between OIL/ONGC and the private parties;